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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/615,504	07/08/2003	Philippe Bazot	FR920020030US1	9216

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EXAMINER
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SURVILLO, OLEG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2142

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/08/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/615,504

Applicant(s)

BAZOT ET AL.

Examiner

Oleg Survillo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

1. This Action is responsive to the amendment filed on July 30, 2007. Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. No claims have been amended. No new claims have been added.

### *Response to Arguments*

2. With regard to the Applicants' remarks filed on July 30, 2007:

Regarding the rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choquier et al. in view of Agarwalla et al., Applicants' arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Therefore, the rejection is maintained.

Applicants argued: **"...the purpose of "content distribution flag" in Agarwalla is to notify the receiving content server that a content caching system is "content distribution aware". That is, if informed of the file name associated with returned content, the caching system can make use of that information. Clearly, the claimed "service availability request" does not correspond in any way with Agarwalla's "content distribution flag".**" This argument is not persuasive because Applicants alleged that the functionality of a service availability request is different from that of a content distribution flag in Agarwalla, wherein the functionality of the service availability request was not claimed as per claim 1. Also, it is being noted that Agarwalla reference was mainly used to show the method of augmenting the service request by appending an additional information to HTTP header and removing the additional

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information from the response. This, for the purpose of teaching the method of augmenting the service request by appending additional information (service availability request" and later removing additional information from the response (service availability token) Agarwalla's "content distribution flag" may well be interpreted as "service availability request" absent of particular functional or structural differences between two, as presently claimed.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choquier et al. (5,774,668) in view of Agarwalla et al. (6,985,936).

As to claim 1, Choquier shows a method for directing service requests from user workstations comprising client microcomputers (102) to the most available content server comprising application servers (120) through a proxy server comprising a Gateway microcomputer (126). Choquier shows looking in a context table comprising a service map (136) in the proxy server to determine the content server able to provide the requested service (col. 8, lines 7-9). It is inherent for the service request to be defined by URL since the communication between client and content server via proxy is established using TCP/IP protocol and HTTP being a request/response protocol

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between client and content server (col. 5, lines 5-9). Choquier shows sending service request from proxy server to determined content server (col. 8, lines 21-24) and sending reply messages from determined content server to client via proxy server (col. 8, lines 25-27). Choquier shows updating context table in proxy server using service availability token received from a content server (col. 10, lines 45-54) where service availability token comprises local map (140) (col. 10, lines 66-67; col. 11, lines 1-12).

Choquier does not show that service availability request is appended to service request from client because proxy server is configured to automatically request service availability in predetermined time intervals (col. 10, lines 49-54). Choquier does not show that service availability token is appended to reply from content server because service map dispatcher (144) is configured to automatically request service availability tokens from content servers (col. 10, lines 42-45), as well as removing service availability token since it was not appended before.

Agarwalla shows:

that the service availability request [a content distribution flag (col. 8 lines 23-30)] is appended to service request from the user workstation [augmenting HTTP GET request message with an HTTP header containing the service availability request (col. 8 lines 43-47)];

appending a service availability token [content distribution information (col. 10 lines 13-15)] to the reply provided by said determined content server before sending said reply from said determined content server to said proxy server [caching system (col. 9 lines 64-67 and col. 10 lines 1-4)]; and

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removing said service availability token from said reply upon reception thereof by said proxy server [(col. 12 lines 38-48)].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the method of Choquier by appending a service availability request to said service request, append a service availability token to the reply, and remove said service availability token from the reply upon reception as taught by Agarwalla instead of periodically requesting service availability tokens from content servers (as taught by Choquier) in order to efficiently respond to service availability updates from the content servers that are currently serving service requests and therefore are susceptible to frequent changes in availability.

As to claim 2, Choquier shows that context table includes a plurality of entries (400) corresponding to several URLs comprising service names and associated with the same server name, where URLs refer to MAIL and BBS services that reside on the same server (120e) (col. 9, lines 27-30).

As to claim 3, Choquier shows that context table contains "availability" as a parameter for each entry associated with URL (col. 10, lines 66-67; col. 11, lines 1-7).

As to claim 4, Choquier shows that service request is rejected if the parameter comprising "minimum throughput requirement" in context table comprising service priority table (1220) is defined as not available.

Choquier does not show that service request is rejected if the parameter "availability" is defined as not available.

Examiner takes Official notice that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the method of Choquier to define the parameter "availability" as not available in order to specify that the parameter "availability" of zero indicates that the content server is heavily loaded and as a result, not available (col. 11, lines 6-7).

As to claim 5, Choquier shows that context table includes multiple entries for the same server as recited in claim 2 where the entry with the parameter "availability" comprising CPU LOAD being the highest one selected when looking for an entry, at the top of the context table comprising service availability token (Fig. 4, (140)).

As to claim 6, Choquier shows that context table contains a plurality of parameters (Fig. 4, CPU LOAD, CPU INDEX) associated with the service availability token received from content servers, these parameters being updated in the context server upon reception of service availability token (col. 10, lines 49-54). It is inherent that the parameters contained in the context table and associated with the service availability request are the same as the parameters in the service availability token since the service availability token returns the parameters requested.

As to claim 7, Choquier shows refreshing the entry of context table by taking into account variables comprising CPU LOAD and CPU INDEX values included in the context table, which are a function of parameter "availability" comprising FREE CPU and AVAILABLE CPU (col. 14, lines 60-67; col. 15, lines 1-3).



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As to claim 8, Choquier shows that the context table contains "availability" as a parameter and serves to inform of change in state of any content server in the system (col. 11, lines 46-47).

Choquier does not show that parameter "availability" is set to "not available" when number of retries is equal to a predetermined maximum number.

Examiner takes Official notice that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the method of Choquier to set the parameter "availability" as "not available" when number of retries is equal to a predetermined maximum number in order to specify that the parameter "availability" of zero indicates that the content server is heavily loaded and as a result, not available (col. 11, lines 6-7).

As to claim 9, Choquier in view of Agarwalla shows that service request comprising content request (500) Fig. 5 in Agarwalla is written in HTML (Fig. 7A in Agarwalla) and said service availability request is contained in a header of HTTP service request (Fig. 7A (714) in Agarwalla).

As to claim 10, Choquier in view of Agarwalla shows that said service availability token is in XML format (Fig. 9F, col. 11 lines 22-36 in Agarwalla).

As to claim 11, Choquier shows updating context table when receiving service availability token from a content server (col. 10, lines 45-54) and changing parameter "availability" by overwriting its old value with the updated value, based on the last received token (col. 10, lines 54-57; col. 11, lines 10-12).



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As to claim 12, Choquier shows means for implementing the steps of claim 1 such as user workstations comprising client microcomputers (102), content servers comprising application servers (120), a proxy server comprising a Gateway microcomputer (126), context table comprising a service map (136), and service availability token comprising local map (140).

### ***Conclusion***

3. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Oleg Survillo whose telephone number is 571-272-9691. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 7:30am - 5:00pm; F 7:30am - 4:00pm EST.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on 571-272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Examiner: Oleg Survillo

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